

§ 750.51

32 CFR Ch. VI (7-1-11 Edition)

§ 750.51 Final disposition.

(a) *Claimant to be notified.* The adjudicating authority shall notify the claimant, in writing, of the action taken on the claim.

(b) *Final denial.* A final denial, in whole or in part, of any MCA claim shall be in writing and sent to the claimant, or his attorney or legal representative, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. The notification of denial shall include a statement of the reason or reasons for denial and that the claimant may appeal. The notification shall also inform the claimant:

(1) The title of the appellate authority who will act on the appeal and that the appeal will be addressed to the adjudicating authority who last acted on the claim.

(2) No form is prescribed for the appeal, but the grounds for appeal should be set forth fully.

(3) The appeal must be submitted within 30 days of receipt by the claimant of notice of action on the claim.

§ 750.52 Appeal.

(a) A claim which is disapproved in whole or in part may be appealed by the claimant at any time within 30 days after receipt of notification of disapproval. An appeal shall be in writing and state the grounds relied upon. An appeal is not an adversary proceeding and a hearing is not authorized; however, the claimant may obtain and submit any additional evidence or written argument for consideration by the appellate authority.

(b) Upon receipt, the adjudicating authority examines the appeal, determines whether the appeal complies with this regulation, and reviews the claims investigative file to ensure it is complete. The claim, with the complete investigative file and a memorandum of law, will be forwarded to the appellate authority for action. If the evidence in the file, including information submitted by the claimant with the appeal, indicates the appeal should be approved, the adjudicating authority may treat the appeal as a request for reconsideration.

(c) Processing of the appeal may be delayed pending further efforts by the adjudicating authority to settle the

claim. Where the adjudicating authority does not reach a final agreement on an appealed claim, it shall send the entire claim file to the next higher settlement authority, who is the appellate authority for that claim.

(d) The appellate authority shall notify the claimant in writing of the determination on appeal; that such determination constitutes the final administrative action on the claim; and there is no right to sue under the MCA.

§ 750.53 Cross-servicing.

(a) See § 750.13 or information about single-service claims responsibility under DODDIR 5515.8 of 9 June 1990.

(b) *Claims settlement procedures.* Where a single service has been assigned a country or area claims responsibility, that service will settle claims cognizable under the MCA under the regulations of that service. The forwarding command shall afford any assistance necessary to the appropriate service in the investigation and adjudication of such claims.

§ 750.54 Payment of costs, settlements, and judgments related to certain medical or legal malpractice claims.

(a) *General.* Requests for reimbursement/indemnification of costs, settlements, and judgments cognizable under 10 U.S.C. 1089(f) [for personal injury or death caused by any physician, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, paramedic, or other supporting personnel (including medical and dental technicians, nurse assistants, and therapists)] or 10 U.S.C. 1054(f) (for damages for injury or loss of property caused by any attorney, paralegal, or other member of a legal staff) while acting as DON personnel will be paid if:

(1) The alleged negligent or wrongful actions or omissions arose in connection with either providing health care functions or legal services and within the scope of employment; and

(2) Such personnel furnish prompt notification and delivery of all process served or received, and other documents, information, and assistance as requested; and cooperate in defending the action on the merits.

(b) *Requests for Indemnification.* All requests for indemnification for personal liability of DON personnel for

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acts or omissions arising out of assigned duties shall be forwarded to the Judge Advocate General for action.

§ 750.55 Attorney's fees.

Attorney's fees not in excess of 20 percent of any settlement may be allowed. Attorney's fees so determined are to be paid out of the amount awarded and not in addition to the award. These fee limitations shall be incorporated in any settlement agreement secured from a claimant.

§§ 750.56–750.60 [Reserved]

Subpart D—Claims Not Cognizable Under Any Other Provision of Law

§ 750.61 Scope of subpart D.

This section provides information on payment of claims against the United States, not payable under any other statute, caused by the act or omission, negligent, wrongful, or otherwise involving fault, of Department of the Navy (DON) military and civilian personnel (hereinafter DON personnel) acting outside the scope of their employment.

§ 750.62 Statutory authority.

Section 2737 of title 10, United States Code, provides authority for the administrative settlement in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 of any claim against the United States not cognizable under any other provision of law for damage, loss, or destruction of property or for personal injury or death caused by military personnel or a civilian official or employee of a military department incident to the use of a vehicle of the United States at any place, or any other property of the United States on a Government installation. There is no right to sue. There are no territorial limitations and the Act has worldwide application.

§ 750.63 Definitions.

(a) *Civilian official or employee.* Any civilian employee of the DON paid from appropriated funds at the time of the incident.

(b) *Vehicle.* Includes every description of carriage or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as

a means of transportation on land. See 1 U.S.C. 4.

(c) *Government installation.* Any Federal facility having fixed boundaries and owned or controlled by the U.S. Government. It includes both military bases and nonmilitary installations.

§ 750.64 Claim procedures.

(a) The general provisions of subpart A of this part shall apply in determining what is a proper claim, who is a proper claimant, and how a claim is to be investigated and processed under 10 U.S.C. 2737 and this section.

(b) A claim is presented when the DON receives from a claimant or the claimant's duly authorized agent, written notification of a nonscope claim incident accompanied by a demand for money damages in a sum certain.

(c) A claimant may amend a claim at any time prior to final action. Amendments will be submitted in writing and signed by the claimant or the claimant's duly authorized agent.

(d) Claims submitted under the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) or Military Claims Act (MCA) shall be considered automatically for an award under this section when payment would otherwise be barred because the DON personnel were not in the scope of their employment at the time of the incident. If a tender of payment under this section is not accepted by the claimant in full satisfaction of the claim, no award will be made, and the claim will be denied pursuant to the rules applicable to the statute under which it was submitted.

(e) Damages caused by latent defects of ordinary, commercial type, Government equipment that were not payable under the MCA, Foreign Claims Act, or FTCA are payable under this section.

(f) Nonscope claims for damages caused by local national DON employees overseas are also payable under this section if the injury was caused by the use of Government equipment.

(g) Payment may not be made on a nonscope claim unless the claimant accepts the amount offered in full satisfaction of the claim and signs a settlement agreement.

(h) Payment for nonscope claims adjudicated by field commands will be affected through their local disbursing